GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1320
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
STAGNATION IN DEFENCE SERVICES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing stagnation in the three services of Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to end the backlog in Armed Forces;

(d) whether Ajay Vikram Singh Committee's Report has been implemented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY GIVEN IN PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1320 FOR ANSWER ON 26.11.2007

Review of the creation of posts and restructuring of the cadres in forces is an ongoing and continuous process. Mechanisms exist in all the three Services to address issues of stagnation.

In May 2001, Army Hqrs had forwarded a paper to the Ministry of Defence drawing attention to certain shortcomings and imbalances in the organizational structure of the officers cadre with the aim of achieving optimal combat effectiveness by bringing down age profile of Battalions/Brigade Commanders and to make the organization more effective in fulfilling individual career aspirations of the officers.

Ministry of Defence had set up a committee to examine proposals of Army Hqrs on 16th July 2001, under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Vikram Singh, the then Special Secretary with representatives of all the three Services. The Committee (AVSC) submitted its report in January 2003. The Raksha Mantri gave 'in principle' approval to the recommendation of the Committee in September 2003. The Committee identified two interrelated issues viz., high age profile and career stagnation. The Committee made recommendations encompassing both short term and long term measures. Certain recommendations pertaining to non-select ranks have already been implemented with effect from December 2004.

AVSC has recommended a multi-pronged approach comprising the pull and peel factors, which include a strategy to bring down the age profile through a lasting solution and also short term measures to provide some immediate relief.